

# St. John's Lutheran Church



## Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

December, 2020

*Have you remembered St. John's in your will?*

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As we look forward to the weeks ahead, I'm looking ahead to Christmas in Church. And I'm imagining what Christmas would be like if only a couple people could celebrate it together. Instead of a large meal and a table surrounded by family and close friends, I'm trying to imagine a Christmas with perhaps a simple meal of bread and drink, minus the holiday napkins and good china.

As we plan our Christmas worship for the end of the month, what if we were to find ourselves on that holy night in an empty hall: a truly silent night, absent hundreds of candles burning brightly as we sing. Instead, I'm picturing a Christmas where there's only a simple candle or two, lighting the faces of a young mother, having delivered her firstborn, and a little newborn baby, wrapped tightly in swaddling clothes.

As we plan for this Christmas to come, I'm imagining the very real birth of our Lord Jesus in a stable. That little baby was not surrounded by family and friends and music. If he woke up, it was not by the rustlings of Saint Nicholas delivering his gifts, but by some poor shepherds stumbling into his barn.

The first Christmas was an unusual Christmas, to say the least.

As the following weeks unfold, we may find our houses unusually lacking in holiday company. We may not find ourselves shoulder to shoulder in church, joining a full house

singing "Silent Night." Instead of washing our holiday dishes quickly so we can get to church on time, we may find ourselves gathered around our computer, pulling up our Facebook page to hear our pipe organ belt out "Joy to the World".

This may be a very unusual Christmas, by all familiar standards. Already, our masking and distancing have changed the ways our families get together and how we worship together in church. And if conditions warrant, we may find our Christmas celebrations almost as quiet as that first one in Bethlehem.

But however unusual or familiar our Christmas celebration will be, the truly unusual and unexpected gift of that first holy night is as real today as it was then: Our Lord Jesus, the Son of God, has been born among us.

He didn't come to us for wonderful music and food and candles and the festive sights and sounds that grace our usual Christmas festivities.

He came, instead, for the love of us: to give his very real life for us on the cross and set us free from sin and death.

Dying on the cross, he was born to show us the true heart of God.

We don't know how we'll gather for worship in the weeks to come, or how we'll celebrate Christmas together. But we do know the one who came to us on that holy night. And for that Christmas gift we say, "Thanks be to God."

*Peace,*

*Pr. Bryan*

### *What's Inside*

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## Radio Ministry



- Dec 6 In gratitude for St. John's ministry. Anonymous
- Dec 13 In memory of Emette & Genette Burgess by Bob Potempa
- Dec 20 Given by faithful listener from Decorah
- Dec 27 In memory of loved ones who are with the Lord . Anonymous

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### **PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT**

St. John's is currently looking for a Vice President and President for the year 2021. Prayerfully consider donating your talents to these positions. Contact the Nominating Committee if interested. **Thank you**

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### **1st Communion: 4th & 5th Graders**

Front Row: Reed Liddiard, Haley Cook, Alexis Martin, Colin Jones

Second Row: Talin Hemann, Blake Roe, Sophia Palmer, Landon Ellickson



November 1, 2020



Adele Clark

## *To Receive the Word ...*



Sunday morning worship services are on the local radio station. Dial in 103.5 FM (KNEI) at 8:30 am or log into [www.kneiradio.com](http://www.kneiradio.com) to worship with St. John's. We also are video streaming on Facebook Live.

You may now receive the newsletter via email as a PDF document. Contact the church office if you would like to be on this email list.



St. John's is on the web at [www.stjohnswaukon.net](http://www.stjohnswaukon.net)

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## **Church Council Meeting**

### **Highlights**

**Nov. 17, 2020**



Council meeting was postponed to December 1, via Zoom. A link will be sent out prior to meeting.



**Poinsettias** will be purchased to add to the festive holiday decorations during the upcoming Christmas season. Because of COVID19, **orders will be taken through the church office.** You may call Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 2:00 pm with your order. **Cost for each plant is \$8.00.** **Checks, made out to the Altar Guild,** may be mailed to the church or dropped off during the week or Sunday morning. You may pick up your poinsettia any time after the Christmas Eve service.

*Thank you for adding to the beauty of Christmas in the sanctuary.*

2020

&lt;- NOVEMBER

JANUARY -&gt;

## DECEMBER

| S  | M  | T  | W   | T  | F                | S  |
|--|----|--|---|--|------------------|--|
| 29   | 30 | 1<br>7pm Church<br>Council mtg via<br>Zoom | 2<br>6pm & 7:15pm<br>Confirmation<br>6:15pm Youth<br>Bells<br>7:15pm Sr Bells<br>8:15pm Sr Choir  | 3  | 4                | 5  |
| 6<br>8:30 Worship<br>w/comm.<br>9:30am Sun.<br>School  | 7  | 8<br>7pm Dorcas<br>mtg via Zoom            | 9<br>6pm & 7:15pm<br>Confirmation<br>6:15pm Youth<br>Bells<br>7:15pm Sr Bells<br>8:15pm Sr Choir  | 10   | 11               | 12   |
| 13<br>8:30am<br>Worship<br>9:30am Sun.<br>School<br>7pm<br>Ecumenical<br>concert                       | 14 | 15   | 16<br>6pm & 7:15pm<br>Confirmation<br>6:15pm Youth<br>Bells<br>7:15pm Sr Bells<br>8:15pm Sr Choir | 17   | 18               | 19<br>9am Sunday<br>School<br>Christmas<br>program<br>practice |
| 20<br>8:30am<br>Worship<br>w/comm. &<br>Sunday School<br>Christmas<br>program<br>9:30am Sun.<br>School | 21 | 22   | 23<br>6:30pm Bells<br>7:30pm Sr Choir<br>Confirmation tbd   | 24<br>4pm<br>Candlelight<br>serv w/comm<br>7pm<br>Candlelight<br>serv w/comm | 25<br>no service | 26<br>9am-5pm Smith<br>family use of<br>F.H.                   |
| 27<br>8:30am<br>Worship NO<br>Sunday School  | 28 | 29   | 30<br>NO choir<br>practices   | 31   | 1                | 2  |

Activities subject to change based on COVID19

## Music Ministry

Thank you to the members of the St. John's Senior Choir, Senior Bell Choir, Youth Bell Choir, and Men's Choir who all have stayed the course and continue to serve St. John's and the greater radio listening audience during these turbulent and uncertain times. You all are so appreciated.

In spite of some other church, community, and school activities being cancelled, St. John's will continue to be a source of weekly and now Christmas inspiration with an 8:30 service on Sunday morning. On Christmas Eve, there will be a 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. church service. The Ecumenical Choir Concert will be held on Sunday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Church. Whether or not that concert will be open to the public is yet to be determined. The musical selections will be performed by the Senior and Youth Bell Choirs with choral selections presented by the Men's Choir known as The Heartland Barbershop and Gospel Singers. The program will be broadcast live on KNEI 103.5 FM radio and may be seen and heard on Facebook by searching St. John's Lutheran

Church, Waukon, Iowa. Each week our Facebook audience is greatly expanding. We hope our availability will provide a much needed spiritual and musical experience for our church members, the community, and beyond.



*Merry Christmas!*

*James H. Bieber - Organist / Director of Music*

### Advent Readers:

Nov. 29: Tharin Benson family  
Dec. 6: Lee Ellickson family  
Dec 13: Cody Cook family  
Dec. 20: Corb Grimstad family

St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Dec 2020

| Date                      | Service |        | Greeters | Readers          | Comm. Asst. | Comm. Prep. | Acolytes | Ushers   |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--|
| 12/6/20<br>Advent 2       | 8:30 AM | E<br>W | X        | Matt Teslow      | X           | Linda Groe  | TBD      | Ron Dahlstrom family                             |
| 12/13/20<br>Advent 3      | 8:30 AM | E<br>W | X        | Karen Grimstad   | X           |             | TBD      | Same as 12/6                                     |
| 12/20/20<br>Advent 4      | 8:30 AM | E<br>W | X        | Sue Blagsvedt    | X           | Linda Groe  | TBD      | Same as 12/6                                     |
| 12/24/20<br>Christmas Eve | 4:00 PM | E<br>W | X        | Arica Grimstad   | X           |             | TBD      | G&K Grimstad Fam.                                |
|                           | 7:00 PM | E<br>W |          | Nona Sawyer      |             | Linda Groe  |          | C. Stuckman, M. Teslow Fam<br>Lee Ellickson Fam. |
| 12/27/20                  | 8:30 AM | E<br>W | X        | Dalton Ellickson | X           |             | TBD      | Same as 12/6                                     |



# St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



December 2020. Wow, how did we get here so quickly? We hope to be able to bring this year to a close by taking care of all of our St. John's women's items of business and causes.

Thank you to everyone for donating your Thankoffering gifts to be sent to our WELCA Headquarters to help give further training and education to women which will make it possible for them to improve their ability to achieve a better life for themselves. We are very pleased to be able to send in a total of \$117.

TO ALL OF OUR ST. JOHN'S WOMEN WHO WOULD HAVE GONE TO CIRCLE MEETINGS THAT WE DID NOT HAVE IN 2020 IF YOU SO DESIRE, please either send to the church or take to the church office whatever type of giving (Birthday Box money for the Library, monthly offering, and/or Pennies For Presents) that you would have given at Circle meetings. Also, clarify on your check made out to St. John's WELCA or on a note exactly how much of your money is to go to these three areas. We do not want to forget to share as we have done in the past even though we have not been able to meet together. IF CIRCLE TREASURERS STILL HAVE SOME OF THESE FUNDS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, please either send to the church or take to the church office whatever of these types of giving you still have and clarify what funds go into which area. Also, explain what you wish to be done with any undesignated funds that your Circle has. Please call Deb Thorstenson if you have any questions about your undesignated funds. THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CIRCLE WOMEN FOR YOUR GIVING.

The Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Concert will take place on Sunday, December 13, but there will not be a reception afterward in the Fellowship Hall this year. Watch for further details.

Please pray for peace, for our military men and women, for people suffering from natural disasters all over the world, for the end of the coronavirus, and for Christians everywhere.

Have a beautiful and meaningful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

**Thank you for MAKING TIME and TAKING TIME for our privileges and responsibilities at St. John's.**

*Sue Bieber, President*

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## November Statistics

Baptisms: Cole Dougherty,  
Brantley Steiber



Deaths: Sandra Hove  
Weddings: none



**Cole Thomas Dougherty,**  
infant son of Nick & Ashley  
Dougherty.  
Baptized November 8.



## 9th Grade Confirmands October 25, 2020

Front Row: Olivia Marti, Ava Bossom, Olivia Bossom, Lynsey Houg, Sadie Bucheit; guide  
Back Row: Pastor Bryan, Shawn Martin, Sean Bieber, Wyatt Baxter

2020

&lt;- NOVEMBER

JANUARY -&gt;

## DECEMBER

| S   | M   | T   | W   | T   | F  | S  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 29  | 30  | 1<br>Joe Palmer<br>Anita Petersen<br>Jim & Becky<br>Lomen (A)                                     | 2<br>Zach Rathbone<br>Grant & Heather<br>Nuehring (A)   | 3   | 4<br>Chris Larson  | 5<br>Steve Grotegut<br>Virgil<br>Johanningmeier<br>Eli Stammeyer |
| 6<br>Solan Berger<br>Lane Harrington<br>Brent Miller        | 7<br>Shirley Larkin<br>Christina Williams | 8<br>Bev Haas   | 9   | 10<br>Shawn Martin                                | 11<br>Donnalee Osland  | 12<br>Loren & Cindy<br>Fiet (A)                                  |
| 13<br>Kevin Martin  | 14<br>Damian Copp<br>Lyle Kurth           | 15<br>Lana Troendle   | 16<br>Sherry Knudtson<br>Terry Kolsrud<br>Jodie Moe<br>Tanner Peterson  | 17<br>Kiah Kolsrud<br>Joseph Oder                 | 18<br>Lauren Allison<br>Stephanie<br>Liddiard<br>Sherri Lyons    | 19<br>Ellen Lenth  |
| 20<br>Colinda Roderick<br>Charles & Mary<br>Ann Andregg (A) | 21<br>Bill Blagsvedt<br>Michelle Hartley  | 22<br>Louise Ellingson<br>Greg Palmer<br>Steph Palmer<br>Serene<br>Thorstenson<br>Brooklyn Wilkes | 23<br>Von Collins<br>Brienne Eilers<br>Danyce Jacobs<br>Elizabeth Montet<br>Audrea Peterson<br>Dave & Brienne<br>Eilers (A) | 24<br>Lena Rausch<br>Brian Wullner                | 25<br>Kristi Fahey<br>Nick Heydn<br>Dave & Mary Lou<br>Sorum (A) | 26<br>Rick Dahlstrom<br>Earl & Bev Haas<br>(A)                   |
| 27  | 28<br>Maureen Wagner                      | 29<br>Mike Sanderson  | 30<br>Dave Dougherty<br>Jens & Jane<br>Kallevang (A)  | 31<br>Bobbi Jo Baxter<br>Rudy Hesla<br>Fred Smith | 1  | 2  |

**\*\*Hymns for December at  
St. John's\*\***



**Dec 6 Second Sunday of Advent**

**No. 268 From Heaven Above**

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

**No. 256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

**During Distribution No. 254 & 263**

**No. 249 On Jordon's Banks the Baptist's Cry**

**Dec 13 Third Sunday of Advent**

**No. 264 Prepare the Royal Highway**

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

**No. 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!**

**No. 248 People, Look East**

**Dec 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**No. 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

**No. 296 What Child Is This**

**During Distribution No. 260 & 284**

**No. 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!**

**Dec 24 Christmas Eve**

**No. 283 O Come All Ye Faithful**

**No. 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Communion & Candlelight**

**No. 277 Away In A Manger**

**No. 281 Silent Night, Holy Night**

**No. 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] December 2020. Wow,

**No. 289 Angels We Have Heard On High**

**No. 267 Joy to the World**

**Dec 27 First Sunday of Christmass**

**No. 300 The First Noel**

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

**No. 274 On Christmas Night**

**No. 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

**Book Nook**

**"The Gift" by Richard Paul Evans**



Nathan Hurst hated Christmas. For the rest of the world it was a day of joy and celebration; for Nathan it was simply a reminder of the event that destroyed his childhood until a snowstorm, a cancelled flight and an unexpected meeting with a young mother and her very special son would show him that Christmas is indeed the season of miracles.

**"The Unfinished Gift" by Dan Walsh**

Ian Collins is an old man without his son. Patrick Collins is a young boy without his father. On his Christmas list are only three items. He wants the army to find his father. He wants to leave his grandfather's house. And he wants the dusty wooden soldier in Grandfather's attic - the one his is forbidden to touch.

DVD: **"It's A Miracle"** hosted by Richard Thomas

Twenty true stories shared by ordinary people reveal incredible, life-changing events. Astounding healings, divine interventions, rescues and more that occurred during the Christmas Season, proving it really is the most wonderful time of the year.

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**Circle News**



**SARAH** Circle

**MARY** Circle

**RACHEL** Circle

**DORCAS** Circle \*\*see below\*\*

**Circles can meet.**

**Contact your Circle President for details.**

**\*\*Dorcas Circle** will meet December 8 at 7:00pm via computer. If anyone would like to join the discussion (via any device, computer, tablet, phone) please contact Linda Groe at 563 568-3526



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# .....Sunday School News



1st day of Sunday School  
11-8-20

**Important Dates to Remember:**  
**Christmas Program Practice:** Dec. 6 & 13 during class and Saturday, Dec 19 @9:00am  
**Christmas Program:** Dec. 20 @ 8:30am service  
**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Nov. 29, Dec. 27 and Jan 3, 2021



2020 - 2021 Teachers

3-4 year olds: Annette Cook & Bailey Benson  
K-2nd grade: Ann Hagensick  
3rd-5th grade: Chris Ellickson, Becky Roe  
6th-7th grade: Sandy Deal  
8th grade: Sue Bieber